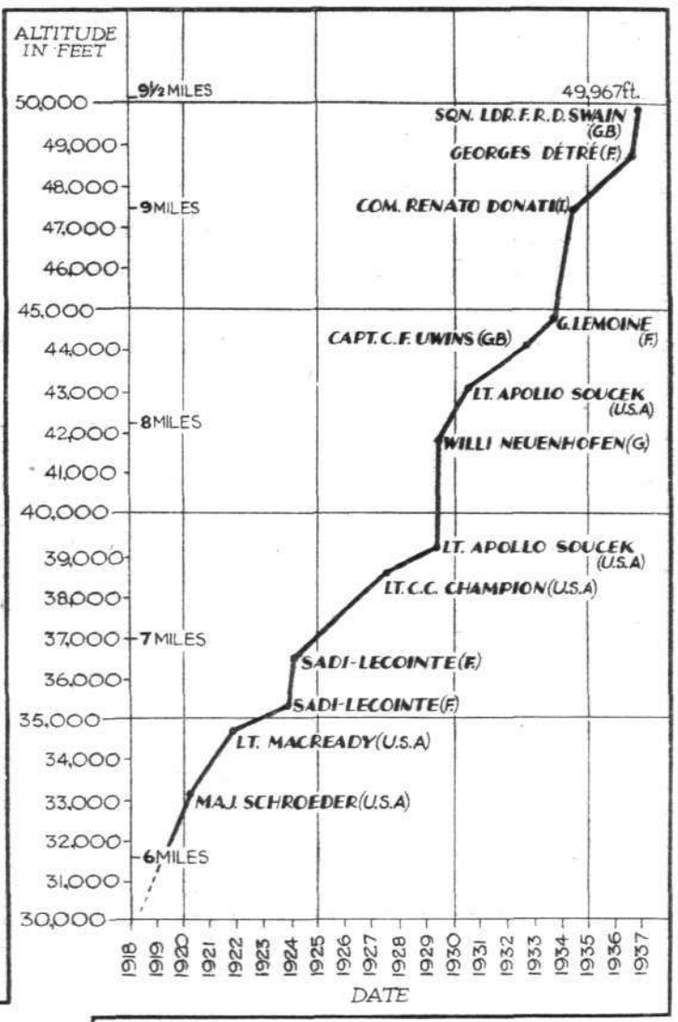
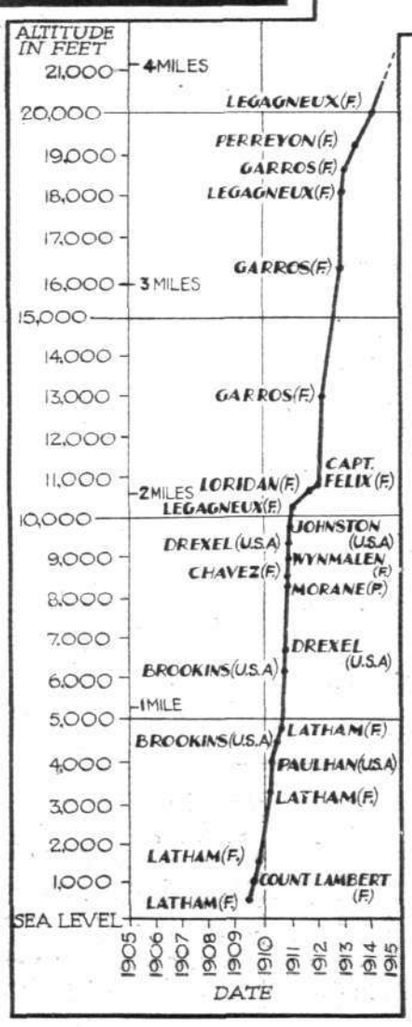
RECORDS TO-DAY

Sqn. Ldr. Swain and the Bristol 138 monoplane. (*Flight* photograph.)





reliability of his products; a successful long-distance record will focus public interest, and the comments and descriptions will supply the advertisement. Other feats could be devised to demonstrate some particular or unique characteristic.

It is, perhaps, strange that one of the most difficult of non-stop long-distance flights, according to modern standards, was the first to be attempted. On May 18, 1919, H. Hawker and Lt.-Cmdr. McKenzie Grieve took off from St. John's, Newfoundland, flying the Sopwith-Rolls-Royce "Atlantic." Before leaving the coast they jettisoned their undercarriage. This was the first attempt in the Atlantic race for the £10,000 *Daily Mail* prize. After flying for fourteen and a half hours, "Atlantic" and Atlantic were compelled to meet some 750 miles from the Irish coast. The pilots were fortunately picked up by a passing vessel.

Capt. J. Alcock and Lt. A. Whitten Brown made the first non-stop Atlantic flight one month later, during June 14-15, 1919. Flying a Vickers Vimy with two Rolls-Royce Eagle engines of 350 h.p. each they completed the crossing to Ireland in 16 hr. 12 min.

In the following July the airship R.34 made crossings both ways, but from then until 1924 no further attempts were made. The *Graf Zeppelin* and *Hindenburg* have now settled down to a regular German summer trans-atlantic service, while in England we wait impatiently for the time when the Empire flying boats will challenge the Zeppelin supremacy.

Among other aircraft North Atlantic flights have now been made by a D.H. Dragon, Puss Moth, Lockheed Vega, Percival Vega Gull, Stinson, Fokker, Junkers, Breguet, Douglas, Dornier, Savoia-Marchetti, Bleriot, Vultee and Bellanca. The last-named aircraft, it will be remembered, was flown by J. A. Mollison from Newfoundland to London in 13¼ hours. This is the best time recorded. Of other Atlantic flights, the salient points are (a) the fact that three women were among the pilots, Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam (solo), Mrs. Amy Mollison, and Mrs. Markham (solo) (portraits and a list of achievements of these and several other pilots appeared in *Flight* last week). (b) The fine solo flight made by J. A. Mollison in so small an aeroplane as a Puss Moth with four-cylinder Gipsy engine. (c) That on the

This graphic representation shows how the aviation beanstalk has grown from feet to miles. (*Flight* copyright.)